

REMARKS

The Office Action objects to the Title and Abstract, objects to claims 2-9, 11-15, and 17, and rejects claims 1, 10, and 16. In addition, the Office Action notes that claims 18-28 are in condition for allowance.

The title, Abstract, and claims 1, 3, 8, and 14 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-28 are pending and under consideration, and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

August 4, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on August 4, 2005 with a form PTO-1449. Applicants respectfully request a copy of the PTO-1449 form, initialed and signed by the Examiner, indicating consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement.

Objection to the Title

The Office Action objects to the Title because it is not descriptive. Applicants amend the title to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Abstract

The Office Action objects to the Abstract on the grounds that the Abstract contains legal phraseology. Applicants amend the Abstract as shown above and attach a replacement Abstract, which incorporates the amendments to the Abstract. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 10, and 16 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 10, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S. C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,839,587 issued to Flatley et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Flatley"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted in item 5 of the Office Action, claim 2 includes allowable features. Claim 1 is amended to include the features of claim 2. Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference.

Claims 10 and 16 depend from claim 1 and include the features of claim 1. Therefore, for at least this reason, claims 10 and 16 are also patentably distinguishable over the cited reference.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Objection to Claims 2-9, 11-15, and 17

The Office Action objects to claims 2-9, 11-15, and 17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 1 is amended to include the features of claim 2, and claim 2 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3, 8, and 14 are amended to depend from claim 1.

As discussed above, claim 1 includes the allowable features of claim 2. Claims 3-9, 11-15, and 17 depend from claim 1, and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features not taught or suggested by the cited reference. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 3-9, 11-15, and 17 do not depend from a rejected base claim. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Summary

Claims 1 and 3-28 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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